

Message Text

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EXDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR KS JA

SUBJ: JAPANESE POLCOUNS ON ROK/JAPANESE RELATEKNS

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BEGIN SUMMARY: JAPANESE EMBASSY POLITICAL COUNSELOR YUTAKA KONDO, WHO HAS RECENTLY RETURNED FROM TOKYO VISIT, EXPECTS GOJ TO CASES TILTING TOWARDS NORTH KOREA FOR TIME BEING AND TO CONCENTRATE ON POSITIVE ASPECTS RELATIONSHIP WITH ROK. JAPANESE EXIM APPROVAL \$300 MILLION YOSU CHEMICAL COMPLEX LOAN SHOULD HELP. JAPANESE ARE CONCERNED HOWEVER, ABOUT POSSIBILITY KIM DWPDJUNG AFFAIR RE-ERUPTING. END SUMMARY.

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH US, NOVEMBER 20 KONDO SAID THAT RECENT JAPANESE "TILT" TOWARD NORTH KOREA WHICH HAD AGGRAVATED ROKS, AND ALSO RECENT SUGGESTIONS TO THE U.S. IN WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK THAT WE MIGHT OPEN UP UNILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE NORTH KOREANS, WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE PURSUED FOR THE TIME BEING.

2. SPECIFICALLY, KONDO NOTED, EFFORTS TO OPEN UP SOME KIND OF DIRECT DIALOGUE WITH THE NORTH KOREANS TO GUARANTEE JAPANESE FISHING BOAT SECURITY HAD ABATED WITH RECENT RETURN OF THE LAST SHOSEI MARU CREWMEN. NEXT SPRING JAPANESE SOCIALIST PARTY MEMBERS

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HAD CONTEMPLATED TRIP TO PYONGYANG WITH VIEW TO WORKING OUT

FISHING AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, KONDO THOUGHT THIS WOULD COME TO NAUGHT FOR TWO REASONS:

(A) NORTH KOREANS WOULD SETTLE FOR NOTHING LESS THAN GOJ GUARANTEE OF FISHING AGREEMENT WHICH SOCIALISTS AS WELL AS GOVERNMENT OPPOSED;

(B) JAPANESE FISHERMEN THEMSELVES WERE CONCERNED ABOUT VALIDITY OF ANY AGREEMENT WHICH MIGHT BE REACHED WITH THE NORTH, AND MORE IMPORTANTLY WERE WORRIED ABOUT POSSIBLE RETALIATION AGAINST THEIR FISHING BOATS FROM SOUTH KOREANS, IF AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH NORTH. KONDO MAINTAINED INCIDENTALLY THAT THERE WAS NO "DIPLO-MATIC" SIGNIFICANCE TO NOVEMBER 19 PROTEST NOTE JAPANESE GAVE TO NORTH KOREAN EMBASSY IN STOCKHOLM ABOUT THE RECENT SHOSZT MARU INCIDENT. THE NOTE WHICH NORTH KOREANS REPORTEDLY REFUSED TO ACCEPT MADE NO REFERENCE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF NORTH KOREA; IT SIMPLY REFERRED TO "NORTH KOREAN AUTHORITIES".

3. AS REGARDS RECENT JAPANESE SUGGESTIONS CONVEYED IN NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON THAT U.S. BEGIN UNILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE NORTH KOREANS, KONDO SAID HE HAD BEEN IN TOKYO WHEN THIS MATTER WAS DISCUSSED AND THAT IT HAD ROUSED HOT DEBATE BETWEEN GAIMUSHO BUREAUCRATS, WHO OPPOSED IDEA BECAUSE THEY WERE CERTAIN U.S. WOULD REJECT IT, AND MIKI AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER WHO WISHED TO PUT SUGGESTION ON THE RECORD SO THAT COULD SAY FOR INTERNAL DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSUMPTION THAT AN EFFORT HAD BEEN MADE. HIS OWN AMBASSADOR IN SEOUL (NISHIYAMA), SAID KONDO, HAD BEEN "FURIOUS" AT GOJ INITIATIVE AND HAD REPORTED HIS VIEWS TO TOKYO.

4. WITH REGARD TO ROK CONCERNS ABOUT FUTURE JAPANESE ACTION IN SUPPORT OF KOREA IN THE UNGA (REFTEL, KONDO EVINCED AWARENESS OF THESE, BUT SAID HE SAW NOTHING AT PRESENT TO INDICATE JAPANESE WOULD BACK AWAY FROM FULL SUPPORT FOR SOUTH KOREA AND OPPOSITION TO NORTH KOREA IN THE EVENT THERE IS ANOTHER DEBATE ON KOREA IN 1976. KONDO ATTRIBUTED JAPANESE RELUCTANCE TO WEIGH-IN HEAVILY AGAINST THE HOSTILE RESOLUTION UNTIL THE LAST DAYS BEFORE THIS YEAR'S FIRST COMMITTEE VOTE TO FOREIGN MINISTER MIYAZAWA. OKAWA, WHO WAS NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR UN AFFAIRS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, AND HIS DEPUTY KOBAYASHI, WHO HAD WRITTEN

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MOST OF THE PAPERS ON THE JAPANESE UN POSITION, HAD PANDERED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S DESIRES, DESPITE OPPOSITION FROM OTHER PARTS OF THE GAIMUSHO ON THIS ISSUE.

5. IN SUM KONDO SAID READINGS FROM WASHINGTON AND SEOUL HAD CONVINCED THE POLITICAL LEADERS TO GO ALONG WITH THE BUREAUCRATS WITHIN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WHO WISHED TO "COOL IT" FOR THE TIME BEING AS FAR AS EFFORTS VIS-A-VIS NORTH KOREA WERE CONCERNED

AND TO DO NOTHING MORE THAT MIGHT DISRUPT TIES WITH SOUTH KOREA AND AGGRAVATE THE U.S. INSTEAD KONDO WAS HOPEFUL GOJ WOULD NOW CONCENTRATE ON CONSTRUCTIVE MEASURES VIS A VIS ROKS. IN THIS CONNECTION, CONFIRMING WORD WE HAVE FROM ROK CHAIRMAN OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES PAK SUN YUP, KONDO SAID JAPANESE EXPORT IMPORT BANK HAS APPROVED \$300 MILLION YOSU PETROCHEMICAL COMPLEX LOAN, WORLDWIDE ECONOMIC PICK-UP, IF IT OCCURS, SHOULD ALSO WORK TO BENEFIT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. IMMEDIATE RETURN OF JAPANESE FISHING BOAT PICKED UP BY KOREAN NAVY IN ROK WATERS NOVEMBER 20 KONDO TERMED "GRATIFYING".

6. ONLY THING THAT COULD REVERSE CONSTRUCTIVE COURSE ACCORDING TO KONDO WAS MAJOR KOREAN DOMESTIC POLITICAL MISHAP. ANTICIPATED ROKG ANNOUNCEMENT OF ARREST OF SEVERAL KOREAN "MINDAN" STUDENTS, FORMERLY RESIDENT IN JAPAN, WOULD NOT CREATE TOO MUCH OF A PROBLEM IN JAPAN. JAILING OF KIM TAE CHUNG ON THE OTHER HAND WOULD, WHILE KIM DAE CHUNG ISSUE WAS "FORMALLY CLOSED", AND JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TO SEOUL NISHIYAMA IS NOT DISCUSSING IT WITH THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT, GOJ IS STILL WORRIED ABOUT THIS CASE. KONDO SAID HE HIMSELF RECENTLY WAS INSTRUCTED TO MAKE STRONG STATEMENT TO ROK KCIA THAT IF KIM TAE CHUNG IS PUT INTO PRISON THIS WILL INEVITABLY RAISE MAJOR POLITICAL OUTCRY IN JAPAN, AND MORATORIUM BETWEEN JAPAN AND KOREA REGARDING KIM TAE CHUNG WILL COME APART. ACCORDING TO KONDO, KCIA OFFICIALS REACTED SHARPLY TO THIS JAPANESE WARNING, SAYING THAT ANY SUCH ACTION WOULD BE CONSIDERED ABROGATION OF JAPAN'S COMMITMENT.
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